



## Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference

31<sup>st</sup> August 2018

Sean Callahan  
President and CEO  
Catholic Relief Services – USCCB  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
U.S.A.

**Ref: HMIr6718**

Dear Sean Callahan,

Fraternal greetings from the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) On behalf of the SACBC and the people of Botswana, the Kingdom of Eswatini and the Republic of South Africa, we congratulate CRS as you celebrate your 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Towards the end of the 1990s the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) decided there was a need for a coordinated response to the HIV epidemic that was affecting Southern Africa. The SACBC Aids office was then established. Sr Alison Munro OP was the first director of the office. In 2000 she applied and was awarded a large grant from Catholic Relief Services. Those days, the main goal was to support small Catholic HIV projects scattered through our Conference area.

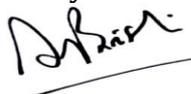
From 2004, and once again thanks to CRS, our Conference was able to start providing antiretroviral treatment and, in this way, help to keep people alive and not only provide palliative care. Over 40.000 people were initiated into the treatment thanks to this partnership.

*“It is noted that CRS has supported the AIDS Office since 2000 and its total funding commitment has exceeded that of any other donor other than PEPFAR: R 37 million between 2000 and December 2012”*(Sr Alison Munro OP, *“Catholic Responses to AIDS in Southern Africa”*, 2014)

Our partnership with CRS has not ended and together we constantly work to find answers to the challenges that, still today, HIV/Aids brings to us and to the lives of the people we serve.

May God bless you and many people that have been touched by your generosity. The SACBC joins you in prayer as you celebrate this milestone in changing people's lives.

Sincerely in Christ

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+Stephen Brislin  
President of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC)

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